



Arizona Department of Water Resources

Prescott Active Management Area

MARCH 2008

Is the Drought Over?

THE WET WINTER OF 2007-2008 CERTAINLY IMPROVED SHORT-TERM DROUGHT CONDITIONS BUT LONG-TERM DROUGHT ENDURES.

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Winter has been a pleasant diversion, with plenty of snow in the high country and rain at lower elevations. Still, the long-term drought persists, according to the members of the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee (MTC).

"The wet winter has definitely been a bonanza for us," said Tony Haffer with the National Weather Service, chair of the monitoring committee. "But the Southwest in general, and Arizona in particular, has been in deficit for many years. Naturally, it will take many winters like this one to get us back into balance."

The wet conditions experienced across most of Arizona over the past two months have been unusual for a La Niña event of this strength and magnitude.

The current La Niña is expected to persist through the spring and consequently, the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center continues to forecast warmer and drier-than-average conditions for the south-western U.S.

Drought is a prolonged period of below-average precipitation severe enough to negatively impact the environment and human activities.

WE CANNOT CONTROL THE WEATHER WE CAN CONTROL OUR ACTIONS

Proper planning for drought can greatly reduce its impacts on our natural resources, our economy, and our quality of life.

Talk to local and state officials, including your legislator, about drought. Let them know your concerns.

Getting involved at the local level ensures that planners and regulators have regional needs in mind. Contact the [AMA Office](#) for information on how you can assist with these efforts.

Always remember that practicing a low water-use lifestyle is vital to help ensure a long-term, sufficient water supply.

Drought & Conservation information is available on the ADWR website at www.azwater.gov

Get to Know... John Rasmussen



“Water is a complex issue; we must strive to hear as many ideas as possible, but we need not assign equal value to each.”

John Rasmussen

Coordinator
Yavapai County
Water Advisory Committee

John Rasmussen is the Coordinator of the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC), whose members represent all of the governmental jurisdictions in Yavapai County and ADWR.

John is committed to helping the WAC maintain its tradition of management-relevant scientific discovery and objective analysis of factual information.

He realizes that water is a keystone issue of our time and feels privileged by the opportunity to work with so

many dedicated people in order to fulfill the core WAC mission: wise long-term water resources management, communication and collaboration.

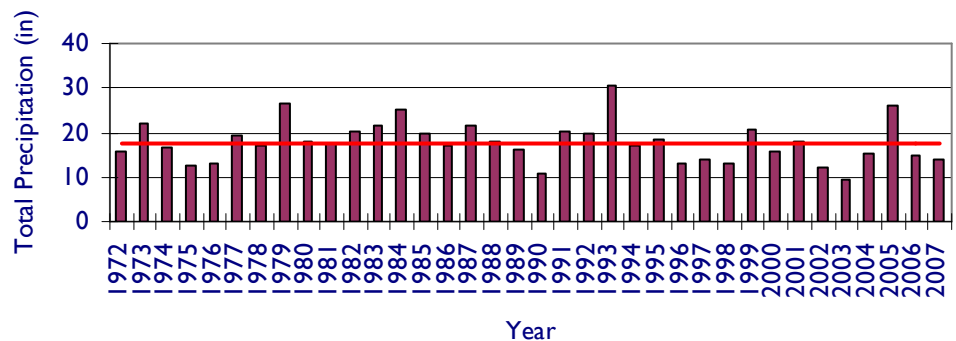
Prior to accepting the WAC position in October 2005, John worked as the hydrologist for the Klamath Basin Reclamation Project in southern Oregon and northern California. Among the similarities of the two positions: the need for consensus building and a data-informed bridge between science and policy.

This will be tested as the WAC, ADWR and Bureau of Reclamation proceed with the regional Central Yavapai Highlands Water Resource Management Study.

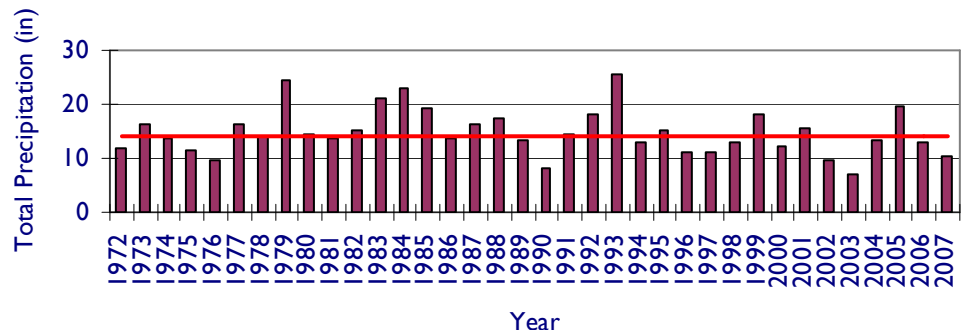
John has a MS in geophysics from the University of Oregon and a BA in geology from Whitman College. He has taught geology at an Oregon Community College. He is a registered geologist in Oregon and has worked as a consultant in the environmental, hydrologic, geophysical and geotechnical fields.

**Watershed
Precipitation
Graphs:**
The red line is
the median.
Note the mostly
below-average
trend since 1994.

Verde Watershed 12-month Precipitation
(Mar-Feb) Median 17.64"



Agua Fria Watershed 12-month Precipitation
(Mar-Feb) Median 14.13"



Smart Landscapes Use Less Water

XERISCAPE (zîr'î-skāp')

A landscaping method that employs drought-resistant plants in an effort to conserve resources, especially water.

DESIGN

Research and design landscapes using water-efficient practices. Plant native or drought-resistant plants. Group plants by their water needs into separate irrigation zones. Design grades for water retention and collect [rainwater](#) for irrigation.

PLANT CHOICE

Plant low-water use and drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees. See the [Prescott AMA's plant list](#) for suggestions.

SOIL

Planting beds need organic compost to improve soil conditions. Prepare lawn areas before planting with 4-6 inches of quality top soil. Add 2-3 inches of mulch around plants to reduce weeds, temperature and water loss.

LAWN

Less is more. Instead, choose less-thirsty native grasses, groundcovers and wildflowers. Whatever you plant, water it correctly. Even overwatered Xeriscapes waste water.

IRRIGATION

Install and maintain a water-efficient drip-irrigation system. Check and re-set timers monthly. Shut off automatic watering systems when it rains or install a rain shut-off device. Track how much rain and irrigation your yard receives and adjust watering schedules to the season. Irrigation systems may need to be customized based on water needs. For example, trees need less frequent but longer irrigation runtimes than shrubs.

MAINTAINENCE

A well-planned yard and irrigation system needs care. Weed yards and gardens regularly as weeds compete with other plants for water. Carefully prune winter damage to reduce plant stress. Check entire irrigation system regularly and repair leaks immediately.

“There are many plants that simply have no business being planted in our area.

The Sunset Western Garden book is the definitive resource for plant species selection.”

Jeff Schalaus, Director,
Yavapai County
Cooperative Extension

2008 Calendar of Events

- MARCH 19, 1:00—LDIG MONITORING GROUP, PRESCOTT
- MARCH 19, 2:30—LDIG EDUCATION & OUTREACH GROUP, PRESCOTT
- MARCH 19, 2:00—WAC, SEDONA

- **MARCH 31—2007 WITHDRAWAL & USE REPORTS DUE TO ADWR. CALL THE AMA OFFICE IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE.**
- APRIL 3, 4:00—AZ WATER PROTECTION FUND WORKSHOP, PRESCOTT VALLEY
- APRIL 16, 2:00—WAC, PRESCOTT

- APRIL 19, 11:00—EARTH DAY FESTIVAL, GRANITE CREEK PARK, PRESCOTT
- MAY 21, 2:00—WAC, CAMP VERDE
- GUAC—CALL AMA FOR DATE & LOCATION

Events listed are those that include ADWR participation and are relevant to the Prescott AMA. Event information is subject to change.

GUAC—

Groundwater Users
Advisory Council

LDIG—

Local Drought
Impact Group

WAC—

Yavapai County
Water Advisory
Committee

More Information about Smart Landscaping

The [Prescott AMA's Low-water Use/Drought Tolerant Plant List](#) includes hundreds of plants that are suitable for the climate of Central Yavapai County.

ADWR's [How Often and How Long to Water](#) fact sheet provides tips for effective watering in Arizona.

The [Backyard Gardener](#), Yavapai County Cooperative Extension's weekly newspaper column, provides locally-relevant information that, thankfully, can be used for the front yard too.

[Rainwater Harvesting for Landscape Use](#) provides detailed information and graphics on how to collect rainwater and use it for irrigation.

The City of Prescott's [Water Smart](#) Program provides information on landscape planning, rain-water harvesting, irrigation and low-water plant choices.

TIP:

Contact your water provider and request a water-use history. The summary will allow you to see water-use patterns and may indicate a need to adjust outdoor water use (is July's use much higher than January's?).

Arizona Department of Water Resources Prescott Active Management Area

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Finding Less-thirsty Plants

Highlands Center for Natural History Grow Native! Educational Festival Saturday April 26, 2008

Featuring Information On:

- Native Plants and Grasses
- Landscaping with Native Plants
- Installing Drip Irrigation

Local Nurseries & Retailers

Encourage local nurseries and retailers to carry low-water use drought-tolerant plants.

When choosing a nursery or retailer, support those who provide water-efficient options.

Landscaping Companies

When choosing a landscape designer, insist on a water-efficient design and choose those who have experience and motivation in Xeriscaping.





Highlands Center for Natural History

Grow Native!

Plant Sale and Educational Festival

1375 S. Walker Road, Prescott

Saturday, April 26, 2008

7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Members Only Sale
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to the Public

\$5 Admission

(free for members)
covers cost of all workshops and Vendor Fair

Featuring specialty native plants
and grasses for the Central
Arizona Highlands

Native Plant Experts
Presenting Workshops on

- Landscaping with native plants • Gardening for wildlife • Installing drip irrigation • and much, much more!

www.highlandscenter.org
or call (928) 776-9550

This is a fundraiser; proceeds benefit the educational programs of the Highlands Center. The Highlands Center helps children and adults discover the wonders of nature and become wise caretakers of the land.